

Memo

To:	Ward teams	From:	Mark Payne Lead Pharmacist – Barnsley BDU / Medicines Information mark.payne@swyt.nhs.uk
Organisation:	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Date:	July 2022
Subject:	Drug shortage: Aripiprazole		

Introduction:

There are currently supply issues with some formulations of Aripiprazole.
Forms affected: tablets (10mg, 15mg), orodispersible (10mg)
Current use: rapid tranquillisation, treatment of psychosis / schizophrenia
Likely length of supply interruption: until Aug 22

Current situation:

5mg tablets, 15mg orodispersible tablets, 30mg tablets and the liquid formulation are available, but high risk of supply issues given the most common forms are unavailable. No issues have been reported with either the short acting or long acting injections.

Options:

1. Transfer prescribing to other strengths / formulations. This will come with an increased financial cost, and potential risks for adherence due to greater tablet burden or complexity of using liquid.
2. Transfer to another antipsychotic.

Recommendation:

1. Do not initiate any new prescriptions for aripiprazole during the period of shortage to conserve supplies for those patients established on treatment.
2. Transfer existing patients to other formulations of aripiprazole, an outline of the recommended actions is included below including cost assessment.
3. Share this information with primary care colleagues to support timely action by existing prescribers.
4. Pharmacy support regarding appropriate treatment choice is available from Mark Payne / Victoria Hill (mark.payne@swyt.nhs.uk / victoria.hill2@swyt.nhs.uk)
5. Make a plan to review any patient who has to be transferred to another formulation once the shortage is resolved.

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Transfer of formulations:

Current dose / form	Cost / 28 days*	Proposed dose / form	Cost / 28 days*	% uplift
Aripiprazole tablets, 10mg OD	£1.00	Aripiprazole tablets, 2 x 5mg OD	£1.78	78%
Aripiprazole orodispersible tablets, 10mg OD	£55.90	Aripiprazole 1mg/ml, 10ml OD	£165.72	196%
Aripiprazole tablets, 15mg OD	£1.06	First choice Aripiprazole tablets, 3 x 5mg OD	£2.67	152%
		Second choice (if struggling with tablet burden)** Aripiprazole tablets ½ x 30mg OD	£13.68	1190%
Aripiprazole tablets, 20mg OD	£2.00	Aripiprazole tablets, 4 x 5mg OD	£3.56	78%
Aripiprazole orodispersible tablets, 20mg OD	£111.80	Aripiprazole 1mg/ml, 20ml OD	£331.45	196%

* as per July 2022 Drug Tariff

** this is an off-label use of the medication, and consideration must be given to ability to halve the tablets as they are not scored

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